Pen & Ink Comics

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Wandering Star

BOOK THREE of TWELVE

WANDERING STAR, BOOK THREE
by Teri S. Wood

Caffeine and Kit Kat bars! I need caffeine and Kit Kat bars! Arrrggghhh! I swear, July is the WORST month of the year. Just too many @#$ things to do. Yeek.

Anyway, howdy folks! And, yes, I know that it's not July as you're reading this, but it is as I write this, so just try and bear with me, eh?

Mmmm. July. The month before the San Diego Comic Con. And I did get a table, as some of you will already know. And I promise, next book, to tell you some really great San Diego Comic Con 1993 stories. Some of them will even be true.

And hey! Want to hear some Splentacular news? Huh? Huh? WANDERING STAR was previewed in CEREBUS #173!!!!!!!!!!!! Yeeeeeaaaaaa! Really, I'm still a little stunned. Oh heck, I'll probably be stunned a while.

I occurs to me, that there just might be a few of you out there that haven't yet gotten hooked by the wonderful world of Dave Sim's CEREBUS. Weeelll, all I can say is you're missing out on one of the greatest comic books ever. No lie. And if you haven't read CEREBUS yet, do it. But, let me give you a little tip. Don't go out and just grab a couple of recent issues, you'll be hopelessly lost. I know, that's how I tried to start.

CEREBUS is a comic series that has been running for, like, fifteen years. You can't just stroll in. Trust me. But never fear, you can easily catch up to what's going on by simply purchasing his collected editions. They run around thirty dollars each, which might seem a mite pricey at first until you realize there are about thirty plus books in the things, making that a cost of less than a dollar a comic. And another tip. Read HIGH SOCIETY first. That's the one that hooked me. It's just great. I laughed, I cried, I went out and bought more CEREBUS.

Well, anyways, here it is, book three of WANDERING STAR! Hope you all like it. And if you do, well then, buckaroos, tell somebody! WANDERING STAR really needs to kick up them sales if I'm going to keep this book a'rolling.

Okay, okay, I'll exit left now and let ya'll get to your reading. Have fun and see you all real soon!

TERI S. WOOD

Missed a copy of WANDERING STAR? Well, kiddies, you can now get copies of books one, two and three from little ol'me. Just send $2.00 a book, or $2.50 Canada, to PEN & INK COMICS, Dept. 2, P.O. Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-549.

AAAAANNNDDD, to help with the costs of printing and generally keeping this little ship afloat, I've created a 500 copy limited edition "Casandra" print. Sample section over yonder ⟶
And if you like what you see, well then here's what you do. Just send $10.00 to PEN & INK COMICS, Dept. LED, Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-549. Thanks friends. I appreciate it mucho.

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ONE

SO...
THERE WE WERE.
THE MERRY CREW OF THE WANDERING STAR.
OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
AT LEAST, NOT THEN.
ALL THE HINTS OF THINGS TO COME SLIPPED COMPLETELY BY US.
I WAS WRITING HOME ON A REGULAR BASIS.
I MISSED MY FATHER AND MY FRIENDS TERRIBLY.
THEIR LETTERS WERE LIKE A LIFE LINE TO ME. I READ EACH ONE DOZENS OF TIMES.
AS LONG AS I COULD READ THEIR LETTERS, I WASN'T SO FAR FROM HOME.
IN MY FATHER'S LETTERS, I LEARNED ABOUT RECENT ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP ON EARTH.
HOW UNUSABLE LAND HAD BEEN MADE USABLE.
SMALL IMPROVEMENTS IN ATMOSPHERIC QUALITY.

I WAS THRILLED
I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS THIS MEANT WE WOULDN'T NEED THE GALACTIC ALLIANCE AFTER ALL.
MAYBE WE COULD CLEAN UP THE EARTH OURSELVES.
MAYBE I COULD GO HOME.
MMM.
MEANWHILE, THOUGH, I WAS STILL AT THE ACADEMY.
AND THOSE LETTERS FROM HOME WERE ALL I HAD OF EARTH.
I LOVED THEM.
BUT...
...MY LETTERS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH FUN FOR THEM TO READ.
ALL I DID WAS GRIPE AND MOAN.
ESPECIALLY TO MY FATHER.
HE WAS VERY SYMPATHETIC.
I MUST HAVE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING.
EVERY FRUSTRATION.
EVERY PROBLEM.
AND, I MUST HAVE WRITTEN A DOZEN LETTERS...
...FEATURING MEKON DZN APPOGAND AS MY MAIN VILLAIN.

BUT WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF THE STORY.

AS I WAS SAYING, IT WAS NOT EASY BEING A LONE HUMAN SO FAR FROM EARTH.

MADISON'S INTRODUCTION OF GRAIKOR AND ELLI TO ME HAD HELPED.

GRAIKOR WAS FASCINATING, BRILLIANT, BUT UNCOMPLICATED. IT WAS KINDA LIKE SUDDENLY HAVING A BIG BROTHER.

AND ELLI, THE ENERGY BEING; THOUGH SHE SPENT MOST OF HER TIME IN THE SHIP'S COMPUTER, WAS NEVER OUT OF THE CONVERSATION. WHEN GRAI LEFT THE SHIP, HE BROUGHT OUT A PORTABLE SPEAKER JUST FOR HER.

I LIKED ELLI A LOT. EVEN IF SHE DID FEEL COMPELLED TO ARGUE WITH EVERYONE. THERE WAS NO HARM IN IT THOUGH.

REALLY! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

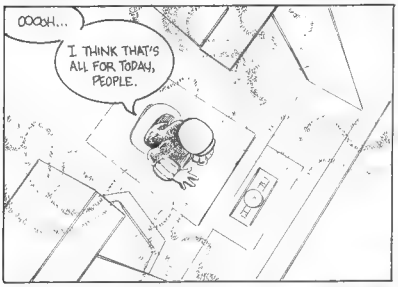
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK THAT MEKON HAS MUCKED AROUND WITH MY FOOD PROCESSOR!
YOU SHOULDA SEEN WHAT MY BACON CHEESEBURGER LOOKED LIKE!
IT WAS A MUTANT BURGER FROM HELL!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I TELL YOU, I'M GONNA LOSE IT.
...AND...
...AND...
...AND JUST KILL HIM.
FUD GRUD! DOESN'T HE HAVE A LIFE TO LIVE OR SOMETHING?
WELL, CAST, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. ELI AND I WILL LOAD YOUR MAIN FOOD PROCESSING PROGRAM INTO WANDERING STAR'S COMPUTER FOR YOU.
YOU CAN DO THAT?
CERTAINLY.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
WE CAN EVEN STORE ABOUT A MONTH'S WORTH OF YOUR FOOD COMPOUNDS!
WE'VE ALREADY DONE GRAI'S AND MADISON'S.
SPLENDTACULAR!
THAT'D BE GREAT! I USUALLY EAT WITH YOU GUYS ANYWAY.
Heh! POOR MEKON. HE'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO HARASS ME!
OH! HE WON'T KNOW!

ELLI'S RIGHT.
YOUR PROGRAM WILL STILL BE IN THE CAFETERIA'S COMPUTER FOR MEK TO PLAY WITH.
REALLY?
THAT MEANS HE CAN HARASS AWAY, NEVER KNOWING I'M EATING HERE.
I LIKE THAT ACTUALLY!
WELL!
HELLO, MADISON!
HELLO.
HI'YA MADISON!
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
FINE.
I'VE GOT TO GET UP TO THE SCIENCE LAB.
DOESN'T SOUND AS IF MADISON WAS VERY FRIENDLY, EVEN BACK THEN.
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.
MADISON ALWAYS HAD QUITE A WALL AROUND HIM.
GRAI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD EVER GET HIM TO LOOSEN UP.

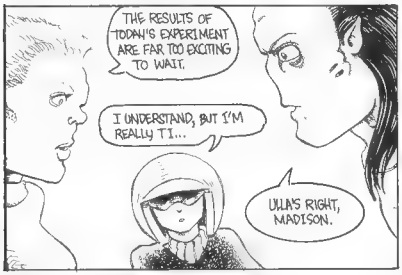
ANYWAY, I WAS LUCKY TO GET WORD ONE OUTTA HIM.
IT DROVE ME CRAZY.
AND I ADMIT, I WAS DYING OF CURIOSITY.
HERE I KNEW SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PSYCHICS IN THE CIVILIZED GALAXY, AND THE ONLY REALLY SUPERNATURAL THING I'D SEEN HIM DO, IN THE THREE MONTH'S I'D KNOWN HIM, WAS SCARE OFF MEKON AND LINDT.
THEN ONE DAY, I WAS WALKING AROUND CAMPUS...
...WHEN I REALIZED I WAS OUTSIDE OF THE SCIENCE BUILDING.
THE PLACE WHERE MADISON DID HIS "THING" FOR THE RESEARCH SCIENTISTS.
AND, IT JUST HAPPENED TO BE...
...THE RIGHT DAY...
...AND, THE RIGHT TIME.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, EH?
I HAD PROBABLY BEEN SUBLIMINALLY PLANNING IT FOR WEEKS.
SO, ANYWAY, THERE I WAS.
I JUST HAD TO SNEAK IN AND LOOK.

THE SCIENTISTS WERE MEASURING MADISON'S HEALING POTENTIAL THAT DAY.
OF ALL OF HIS PSYCHIC TALENTS, MADISON'S HEALING ABILITY IS HIS MOST IMPRESSIVE.
IT IS SO STRONG, YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE THE ENERGY WHEN HE DOES IT.
BUT, YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT. SO MANY FILMS HAVE BEEN MADE OF HIM AND HIS ABILITIES.
BUT, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT HIS POWERS.
YOU CAN'T FEEL THEM ON FILM.

K'TIEN


OOOOH...
I THINK THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, PEOPLE.

BUT MADISON, WE NEED TO RUN ONE MORE TEST.
NOT TODAY, I'M EXSHAUSTED. I'LL COME IN AGAIN TOMORROW.

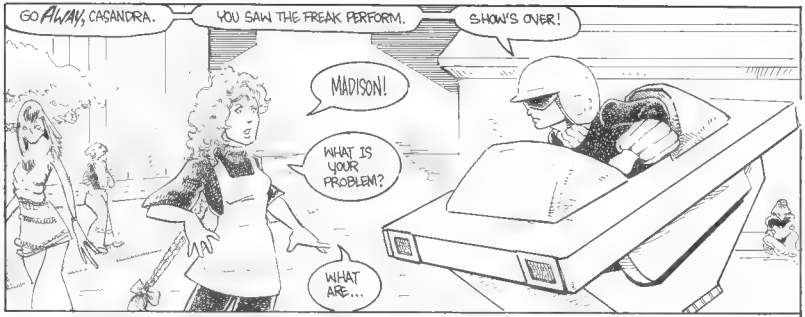

THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S EXPERIMENT ARE FAR TOO EXCITING TO WAIT.
I UNDERSTAND, BUT I'M REALLY TI...
ULLA'S RIGHT, MADISON.

BUT, DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE IT WON'T TAKE LONG AT ALL.
GREAT! I'LL PUNCH IN THE PROGRAM.
I'LL GET SANDEEL TO HELP ME SET UP THE EQUIPMENT.

I'LL COME IN TOMORROW.

UH, YEAH! SURE, MADISON!
TOMORROW! TOMORROW WILL BE JUST FINE!
I NEEDED A LUNCH BREAK ANYWAY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!!
UH, WELL...
...I WAS JUST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND...
...UM...
JUST FORGET IT.
MADISON...?
MADISON!
ARGH!
I HATE THAT HOVERCHAIR!
MADISON! WILL YOU PLEASE STOP?

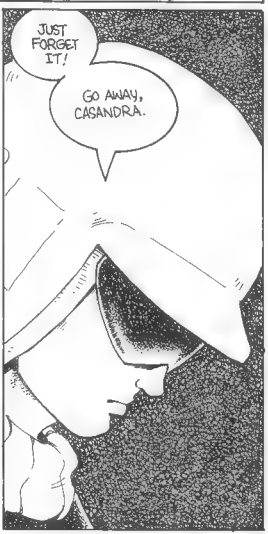

GO AWAY, CASANDRA.
YOU SAW THE FREAK PERFORM.
SHOW'S OVER!
MADISON!
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?
WHAT ARE...

WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS MUCH,
YOU DON'T LET YOUR FEAR CONTROL YOU.

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOUR FEAR!
OH, COME ON, CAST!
YOU CAN'T FOOL A PSYCHIC!
I FELT YOUR REACTION TO WHAT YOU SAW ME DO.

Uh...
...I...
...No!
IT WASN'T REALLY FEAR...
...uh...

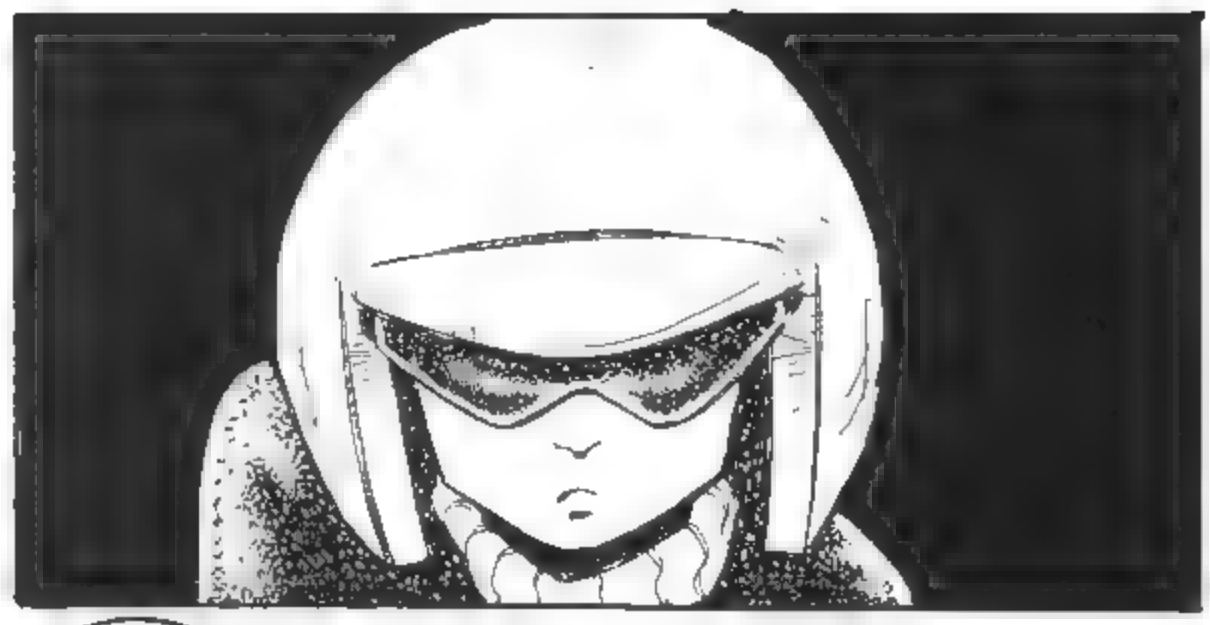

JUST FORGET IT!
GO AWAY, CASANDRA.

MADISON!
LOOK, I...
I SAID...
...GO AWAY!
Whoa!

NOW, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BUCKO! YOU STOP THAT!

DON'T BE PULLING THAT PSYCHIC, EMOTIONAL, INFLUENCING, WHATEVER IT IS, ON ME!

YOU STOP IT NOW!



JEEZ!

I SWEAR, MADISON! YOU ARE THE MOST... FRUSTRATING...

...PIG-HEADED...

...ANTI-SOCIAL...

...uh.

WHAT ELSE CAN I CALL YOU?

DAMN.

YOU REALLY ARE ODD.
AND ANOTHER THING...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
NOT ONE BIT!
GOT THAT?
REALLY?
REALLY.
OKAY.
SO...
...TELL ME...

...you HUNGRY?
YOU
BUYING?
I
GUESS.
THEN,
I AM.
LET'S GO!
I HEAR THE FOOD PROCESSOR...
...MAKES GREAT STEAK AND LOBSTER!
MMM MM!
YUMMY!
YUMMY!
YUMMY!

YOU KNOW MADISON...
...I'M CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING.
GRAIKOR AND ELLI SEEM REALLY NICE...
...HOW COME THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS?
MMM MM!
SIGH.
WELL...
...IF YOU MUST KNOW...
...IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
GRAI CAME UP TO THE RESEARCH LAB, WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED, TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO.
ENDED UP YELLING AT THE SCIENTISTS TO NOT BE SO PUSHY.
HE'S THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED I COULD DO THE "INFLUENCE EMOTIONS" THING.
AND... I DON'T KNOW.
HE JUST SORTA KIDNAPED ME.
INTRODUCED ME TO ELLI...
...NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE NOT TO BE HIS FRIEND.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE WAS KINDA PUSHY
NOT UNLIKE ANOTHER PERSON I KNOW.
CAN'T IMAGINE WHO YOU MEAN.
SO, CAS?...
...TELL ME,
...ARE ALL HUMANS AS PUSHY AS YOU?
YOU MIGHT WANT TO REPHRASE THAT. I FORK-FLIP WITH DEADLY AIM.
OH, TERROR OVERWHELMS ME.
I CAN'T THINK.
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT?
HEY!
I'M NOTHING IF NOT PATIENT.
KIDS!
'KIDS?'
WELL, AT LEAST THEY'RE TALKING, GRAIKOR.
YEAH.
BEEP!

"KIDS?"
THAT'S IT.
JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU, GRAIKOR?
CASI... GRAI CAN CALL US KIDS.
HE'S A HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR.
A HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR?!!!
ACTUALLY, THAT'S BY THE FOBIAN CALENDER.
I'M ONLY A HUNDRED AND SIX BY EARTH YEARS
OH, WELL
SURE.
OKAY.
A HUNDRED AND SIX, YEAH...
...THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.
ONE HUNDRED AND SIX, WHOA!
WAIT! THAT MEANS...
...YOU WERE ALIVE DURING THE BOND KIRIAN WAR!
YES.
WAIT A MINUTE! 2104... YEAH!
YOU WERE ALIVE WHEN THE AMERICANS CREATED WEAPON ARMAGEDDON!
YOU KNOW...
...JUST ABOUT EVERYONE I'VE MET AROUND HERE HATES ME.
BECAUSE I'M HUMAN.
LIKE MEKON!
I MEAN, JEEZ!
IT'S LIKE HIS DAY'S NOT COMPLETE UNLESS HE'S GIVEN ME A HARD TIME!
AND...
THEY WEREN'T EVEN THERE!
WHEN WE WERE WHAT THEY HATE US FOR!
YOU WERE...
IF ANYONE HAS A RIGHT TO HATE ME...
...IT'S YOU.

No, CASI, I DON'T HATE YOU. BESIDES...

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED...

YOU DO **NOT**...

...PUNISH THE **CHILDREN**...

...FOR THE SINS OF THEIR PARENTS!

REALLY, THOUGH...

...IT IS QUITE BEYOND ME WHY SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE ***DO***.

IT SEEMS TO ME A RATHER SILLY IDEA, AND TERRIBLY UNFAIR.

BESIDES, CASI, FOR THOSE OF US OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN THERE, WE WERE ALL VERY SURPRIZED, AND **IMPRESSED**, WHEN YOUR PEOPLE ROSE UP AGAINST WEAPON ARMEGEDON TO HAVE IT DISARMED.

AND, JUST AS IMPORTANTLY...

...WHAT WOULD HAVE THE GALACTIC ALLIANCE DONE...

...WHEN THE BONO KIRO ATTACKED...

...IF EARTH'S PAST HAD NOT BEEN WHAT IT WAS?

THE GALACTIC ALLIANCE SHOULD LOVE EARTH...

...FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE BONO KIRO, THEY WOULD HAVE **WON** IF NOT FOR YOUR PLANET.

THERE! IT'S OFFICIAL!

ELLI **AGREES** WITH ME.

I SUPPOSE.

IT'S JUST...

...I WISH IT COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

CASANDRA...

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.
BUT WE CAN HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.
I SMILED,
...AND I SAID,
"I SUPPOSE IT CAN ONLY GET BETTER."
IF WE'D ONLY KNOWN.

The

WAR

begins in

BOOK FOUR

Well, here it is, kiddies, WANDERING STAR's very first letter page. I want to thank everyone that sent me letters. And remember, if ya want a chance at fame and stardom within the pages of this book, just drop me a note via "Wandering Thoughts" P.O. Box 549, El Centro, CA 92244-549. Hope to hear from you soon!

Before I send you off to read the first letter, I should probably let you know what's going on here. Right after the first book came out, in an attempt to boost sales on WANDERING STAR, I sent out free copies to over 300 comic shops around the U.S. This letter, from the COMIC SWAP, was one such store.

Dear Teri,

Thank you very much for the copy of **Wandering Star.** It is becoming increasingly difficult to order many books sight unseen these days (even for me and I pride myself on carrying quality independents). There is just so much material out there now and I wish more folks took the time and commitment to do what you've done. You'll be happy to hear that your book is one that I've already ordered from our distributor (Diamond). Your name is familiar to me from those old strips in **Amazing Heroes** and various other places such as **Nu Press** so I decided to take a chance on your new book. I've at this point ordered the first two issues and getting to see the first issue up close makes me feel very good about my decision to carry this title.

Wandering Star is off to a very nice start. The characters are ones that immediately drew me in to their story (very real) and I've always liked your art style so there was no problem with that. I was very touched by Casi's realization of how precious times were with her group but not realizing it until much later just how special those times actually were to her. I can identify with that very well. There are many point in my life I can reflect back upon with the same emotion. The whole scene came across very well. I hope we get to see more of this group of people Casi leaves at the end of the issue . . . they seem to be an interesting mix of folks and it would be a shame to not spend some time with them. In just the few pages we see them they all have carved out their respective personalities.

My only real problems with the issue were the first panel on page 17 and the cover. The panel seemed faded (and yet not the lettering in the panel) which seemed odd and distracted from the flow of the story. Was this intentional? Did I miss the meaning of the effect? The cover was not very attractive as far as a selling point. There was nothing really wrong with it, it just doesn't grab your eyes.

Overall a very enjoyable first issue. I will not hesitate in recommending it to my customers. Thanks again for the advanced look. You're effort is appreciated and I wish you much success. We're with you!!

Sincerely,
Kristian L. Boose, Manager
COMIC SWAP
110 S. Fraser Street
State College, PA 16801

My, does this Kristian L. Boose have good taste or what? If you're in the State College area, this is the shop I recommend. Stop in and say, "Teri sent me."

Aaaaannd, let's see, page seventeen. Weeeeell, no, that wasn't intentional. That was me playing around with my paintbrushes and not checking the blackness of my ink. All my lettering is done with my beloved Rotring Rapidograph pens, so the ink there is always black enough for easy printing. Anyway, that's why one part of the panel worked and not the other. But, please, forgive me! I promise it'll never happen again.

Dear Teri:

I've been waiting for that new project you mentioned in a postcard early last year and wondered if I'd somehow missed it. Recently I picked up **Wandering Star #1** and found that I hadn't. Well, I bet this is going to be better than that undone project anyway.

I see you're still badmouthing your old small-press version; c'mon, now. Certainly it was crude and amateurish in drawing and plotting compared to the 1993 version, but it was still fun. I liked it.

The old **WS**, as far as it got, didn't seem to be much more than a new-kid-in-school story, albeit with an enjoyable mix of space exotica. The greater ambition of **WS** Extended Edition is clear from the start, and the contrast of old and young Casandras adds a lot of flavor to it. The expressions of the older Casandra are one off the best parts; good faces.

I hope you get the readership you deserve. One encouraging sign is that the copy I bought was the last one on the rack at Village Comics. I wondered if the cover was too plain to attract new buyers, but it certainly stands out amid the Technicolor, and if browsers open to page one, they should be hooked if they have any taste.

As for the bribe, I can tell you that I ordered #2 from the **Comics Previews** catalogue unbribed, but as long as I've done that I may as well send the postage for the postcard. But really, no laser-cut foil-enhanced limited edition hologram trading card? How do you expect to get people double-bagging fifty copies of #1 without an untradable trading card enclosed?

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen
50 Dekalb Ave., Apt. S6
White Plains, NY 10605

Oh man! The trading card! I knew I forgot something.

Urk. The old WANDERING STAR. Well, gee, in my own defense, when have you ever heard ANY artist say they liked their older work? It's just an artist thing, I guess.

And, Philip, are you EVER going to tell me why you always want me to "carry a grapefruit"?

Hey Wood!

Oops!

I'm sorry! Don't hurt me! I didn't buy a copy of **Wandering Star #2**!!

I bought two copies. Blame the reserve system at my local store. They didn't get me a copy of #1, so I bought it elsewhere. When #2 came out, I figured I'd have to do the same thing. So I bought it at one store, only to find it waiting for me a few days later at the place where I reserve things.

I guess it goes to show that complaining and demanding and getting really insulting (and, of course, threatening to take your business elsewhere) **does** work! Wait a second, no it doesn't. I'm too nice a guy to do something like that.

Secondly, I liked it! The story is beginning to progress, the cast is gathering and the setting has been pretty well established. We also have the title of the book explained, and a hint at its importance. We haven't seen the actual conflict yet, aside from the personality conflict between Casandra and Mek, but you've alluded to the war we will no doubt be seeing before too much longer, so I guess you're on a roll.

We've had a long introduction to the story, which is an unusual approach in comics today, where action is emphasized over story, character, and pretty much everything else. You seem to be handling **Wandering Star** much more like a novel, and it works very well as such. You've taken your time to show us the characters and your world. We've had two chapters of set up time, and I'm sure that by the time we see issue three the plot will begin to thicken.

The artwork continues to improve. Pages 1 and 7 were especially nice, well laid out and detailed. Page 15 was also well done, very emotional.

The aliens are pretty cool, although you seem to follow the "Star Trek" principal of alien creation. (A phrase I coined, which is why I don't read as much SF as I once did. Aliens in most SF tend to be humans with extra--or missing--appendages and different skin, or amorphous blobs. They're never really **alien**.) There's nothing wrong with that, though, because at the same time those "tweaks" on human anatomy can help create an instant personality, which is a great tool for a writer or artist. You, Wood, at least build a real culture around your alien races, which many other writers (including "Star Trek" writers more often than not) neglect, or at best handle only superficially.

Oops. There I go again, getting back on my soapbox. Someone feed me and shut me up.

Anyway, Wood, let me get ready to shuffle off this postal coil by saying I really enjoyed Book Two, and I am eagerly awaiting Book Three. (Maybe this time I'll buy three copies . . .)
(Actually, I'll pass my second copy on to someone else, maybe drum up an extra reader for you.)

Keep up the good work! See you in, what, six weeks?

John R. Platt
45 Sunnybrook Drive
Freehold, NJ 07728

P.S.--I spotted Silver! Do I win anything?

P.S., The Second--OK, you sold me. I'm enclosing $10.00 for your limited edition print. (You've obviously been reading your **CEREBUS**.) You were nice enough to send me a postcard even though I didn't send you a stamp, and I may as well help out to make sure all twelve parts of this story see print. (I guess I'll just have to buy one less cover-enhanced Marvel comic this week!)

P.S., The Third--Hope San Diego went well for you. I would have been there, but there's this little thing called a continent between me and it, and it kind of got in the way.

Well, gee, where to begin?

As you've probably caught on by now, the plot doesn't thicken until book four. But, it'll be hold on to your hats time from then on, so stick with me a mite longer, 'kay?

And you spotted my dear sweet little Silver from the old Cartoonist strips in AMAZING HEROES, eh? But, which book, Johnny? She's IN both. (Heheheh)

What? You would even consider buying one of those enhanced cover things? Gads! That's it. After book twelve my next project is to take over MARVEL and make all their covers like WANDERING STAR! Yeeheeeheeeh!

Hey, and thanks for the free plug for my WANDERING STAR, Casandra Print. And yes, dear readers, you too, can still get your red hot print, limited to 500, for only $10.00! Every one sold helps keep this little boat afloat.

Okay, I'll shut up now, and let Brain talk.

Dear Teri:

Congratulations on your second issue. I think that **Wandering Star** is a charming book with fine storytelling and characters that actually seem like normal people. This will never do! You should immediately change the title to "**The Savage Wandering Death Star.**" Then you should add lots of explosions and carnage. I notice that issue two had a very low body count. In fact, in the twenty pages of story and art I didn't see one homicide! Not one! None of your characters are heavily armed. They are not even lightly armed. If this were a really modern comic book, Casandra would've been packing heat and Mekon wouldn't have made it past page eight! She went though the entire book without once going into a berserker rage. She just got kind of angry. What kind of comic book character is that? You also got issue two out on schedule. Is that some radical new concept?

I was only kidding. I liked the first two issues just fine and I look forward to the rest.

Good luck!

Brian Smith
2586 Seaford Circle #3
Tampa, FL 33613-5064

Oh man, I was all ready to write the new improved SAVAGE WANDERING DEATH STAR. Siiiggghhh. I guess I'll just have to go with the original plan, then. Darn. Darn. Darn. Gee, Brian, and here I thought you was a fun dude.

Well, kids, that's all for this issue! Thanks for hanging in there. I really do appreciate your support.

See you in November with book four!!!!!!

Teri S. Wood

ART FROM BOOK FOUR →

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Nationwide)

NAME: MELISSA JOINES - AKA: "NIKI WEBB"
D.O.B.: October 9, 1977
HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 140#
I.D. MARKS: Pierced ears; scar above left eye into eyebrow; diagnosed schizophrenic.

EYE COLOR: Blue HAIR: Blond/Straight/Medium Length
DATE MISSING: May 8, 1992
MISSING FROM: Orange, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: Orange County Sheriff Department
Santa Ana, CA PHONE: (714)647-1828

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Melissa left the Orangewood Children's Home on 5/8/92 and has not been seen since that time. She has severe mood swings. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Melissa Joines, AKA: Nicki Webb, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Orange County Sheriff Department, Santa Ana, California, or the Missing Children... HELP Center.

NCIC #M-643998924

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Nationwide)

NAME: JENELL TINA SATALA
D.O.B.: June 3, 1976
HEIGHT: 5'1" WEIGHT: 100#
I.D. MARKS: Two black birthmarks on her left cheek. Pierced ears/two times each ear.

EYE COLOR: Black HAIR: Black/Waist Length
DATE MISSING: December 8, 1990
MISSING FROM: Long Beach, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: Long Beach Police Department
Long Beach, CA PHONE: (213)590-7345

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Jenell was last seen on her way to school carrying her books and a purse. She possibly is in the company of a heavy-set Hispanic Male, 5'9" tall with a moustache and black hair and eyes. They may be in the State of Arizona or the State of Nevada. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Jenell Tina Satala, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NOTE: NCIC #M-463341747